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Identical letters dated 26 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On the evening of Tuesday, 25 December 2018, the Israeli occupation authorities once again attacked the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 350 (1974) concerning the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces, launching missiles at a number of military and civilian sites in the city of Damascus and its surrounding countryside. At the time of this terrorist attack, Damascus city streets were thronged with civilians celebrating Christmas for the first time since Damascus and its surrounding countryside were purged of terrorism.

This attempt by Israeli occupation authorities to intimidate the Syrian people on a holy day is incontrovertible proof that their actions are no different from those of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusrah Front, which terrorize civilians. The Israeli occupation authorities have transitioned to a new phase of direct State terrorism in the wake of the defeat of their armed terrorist clients in most areas of the Syrian Arab Republic. This treacherous aggression comes within the context of continued attempts by Israel to prolong the crisis and the terrorist war in Syria in order to raise the morale of its last pockets of terrorist proxies. It is also an attempt by the Israeli Government to evade its escalating domestic problems, for reasons the international community knows very well.

The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that this dangerous and hostile behaviour on the part of Israel would not be continuing were it not for the limitless and ongoing support provided to Israel by the United States administration. The immunity from accountability granted to Israel by it and other known countries in the Security Council allows it to continue practice terrorism and to threaten peace and security in the region and the world.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The Council must take resolute and immediate action to prevent the recurrence of Israeli aggression; to compel Israel to respect Security Council resolutions on the Disengagement Agreement and resolutions that reject the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan; and to hold Israel accountable for the acts of terrorism and crimes it has committed against the Syrian people and for its ongoing support for terrorist organizations. Such

conduct is in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 350 (1974) and 497 (1981), and all instruments and resolutions pertaining to counter-terrorism.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative